

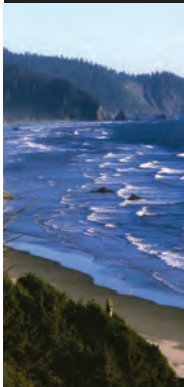
envISIONING the FUTURE of COASTAL MANAGEMENT

background



THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) of 1972 created a unique partnership between federal and state governments with the goal of balancing the conservation of coastal and Great Lakes environments with the responsible development of economic and cultural resources. Pending reauthorization of the CZMA has prompted discussions within the coastal community on ways to improve coastal management in the U.S. In response, NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, which administers programs created by the CZMA, and the Coastal States Organization (CSO) are undertaking a project to engage coastal managers and stakeholders to envision the future of coastal management. The goal of this visioning process is to gather feedback on priority issues and innovative ideas for improving the CZMA and the National Coastal Management Program.

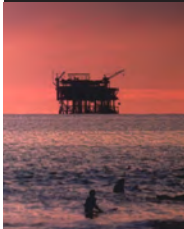
the project to date



IN 2006, NOAA and CSO developed an initial discussion paper that identifies current coastal management issues, constraints, and opportunities. State coastal program managers, estuarine reserve managers, and other state officials had an opportunity to review this paper and, through a series of interviews, provide their perspectives on current and emerging priorities and recommendations for how coastal management might be improved. They offered a number of recommendations for ways to improve federal-state partnerships, cultivate champions for coastal management, develop an ecosystem-based strategy for land acquisition, and enable partnerships with local governments.

The managers interviewed identified **GROWTH** and associated land use changes, **HABITAT** degradation, and decreasing **WATER QUALITY** as the highest priority threats to the coastal resources of their states. They expect the effects of **CLIMATE CHANGE** to emerge as a major resource pressure in the future.

next steps



IN SPRING 2007, NOAA and CSO will engage the broader coastal community, including state, local, and federal government agencies; industry; academia; and recreational and non-governmental interests, to seek additional feedback and ideas. Workshops will be held for both stakeholders and coastal management experts to generate innovative techniques and solutions, explore their feasibility, and assess their potential impacts and degree of support among constituents. Stakeholder meetings will be held in Boston, San Francisco, Chicago, Atlanta, and Hawaii.

outcomes

NOAA AND CSO will develop a synthesis of information gathered through the visioning process by fall 2007. The final outcome will be a set of core principles, a suite of options for revising the CZMA, and suggestions for other techniques that NOAA and the states may consider implementing for improved coastal management.

for more information, please visit:

www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/czm/czma_vision.html

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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
COASTAL STATES ORGANIZATION

